

CUBA
9 April 1962

"The Yankee imperialists were the ones who were defeated at Playa Giron. It was Kennedy and his government. It was the lackey governments of Latin America, such as, those of Guatemala and Nicaragua, their supporters. On these falls the shame and the ignominy. On these falls the weight of the sentence imposed by the revolutionary tribunal, which, under the presidency of Maj. Augusto Martinez Sanchez, judged the mercenaries.

"The sentence gives them a final choice: either they pay the indemnity in dollars and effect the release of those they used as the tools of their crime, or the latter will repay part of the damage they caused with their work during a 30-year prison term. Aside from this, there is nothing--not even their infamous lives--which can repay for the lives of the beloved heroes of the fatherland and the lives of the women and children, of our simple people, that imperialism cut down with its mercenary hand.

"The indemnity will be used to repay the damage they caused and, surely, to foster industrial, agricultural, and livestock production in order to increase our reduction in supplies brought about by the economic blockade imposed by Yankee imperialism.

"Friends of Cuba in the entire world, Cuba's friends in Latin America, have with this sentence a formidable weapon with which to crush the liars, the counterrevolutionary parrots, and all the enemies of the revolution and of the peoples.

"The revolution deserves applause and we give it a long, resounding round."

CARIBBEAN MANEUVER CALLED WAR REHEARSAL

Havana in English to North America 0300 GMT 8 April 1962--E

(Commentary: War Rehearsal)

(Text) The cable datelined Washington states that more than 40,000 marines and 33 war vessels; among them the 60,000-ton aircraft carrier Forrestal, will be mobilized by the U.S. Government next week. They will all participate in extensive war maneuvers in the Caribbean area. The maneuvers are to be highlighted by a simulated attack on Vieques island off Puerto Rico. The cable did not carry the reasons given by the U.S. Government for these maneuvers, that is, if any explanation was given. However, it can be easily linked with the meeting that is presently taking place in Panama. Here the Caribbean Command, headed by U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara is meeting.

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The meeting has been called "Hope," and is very important as it will have the participation of Under Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric; Gen. George Decker, army commander; Gen. Victor Krulack, expert in antiguerrilla warfare; and Gen. J. Reynolds. It has been announced that these generals will "coordinate important future actions with the head of the Caribbean Command, Lt. General Andrew o'Meara."

Now you see what we mean. War maneuvers in the Caribbean--simulated landings on Vieques Island of Puerto Rico, a few miles away from Cuba--and a group of generals and the U.S. Defense Department officers to meet to discuss important future actions in the Caribbean area. You can put two and two together and so can we. To all this must be added the establishment of new bases in the Panama Canal Zone and the fact that the reserves who have been called into active service are being kept active for a long period of time without any explanation from Mr. Kennedy. Now, if all this does not sound like someone rehearsing for war, that is, that someone is preparing to attack another country, or let's say it more directly, does not all this sound like the U.S. Government and the Kennedy administration is preparing to attack Cuba?

We also know that the reservists who are being kept on active duty have protested the measure since they are not interested in war, but in leading a peaceful life. We have read with admiration of the thousands of kids, as well as women, who demonstrated in Times Square in defense of peace. We know of the many U.S. citizens who are to be tried on charges of defending peace at a time when the arms manufacturers want to speed up the arms race and throw the whole world into another war. Because of this we are calling attention to the maneuvers in the Caribbean area--to the war that is now being rehearsed, of the Pentagon, of Mr. Kennedy, and of the State and Defense Departments.

We want to remind them of what happened in Playa Giron. We want to remind them that our national militia defeated the U.S.-backed and trained mercenary invasion of Playa Giron in only 72 hours. Giron is still fresh in our memory, more so since in a few days we will celebrate the first anniversary of this victory. Therefore, our national militia continues to be ready. Now our men are proficient with tanks and mortars, as well as with antitank rifles and antiaircraft guns. The Cuban people, organized within the national militia, have endured the long marches, the periods in the trenches, the hard training, and continuously keep themselves in shape by further training.

Our militia has some experience also: in the Escambray mountains, from the mercenary criminal bands that were attacking our peaceful rural population. They enlarged our ammunition reserves with the arms and ammunition brought by the U.S. Army planes and captured by our militia.

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Our militia defeated the Playa Giron invasion in 72 hours and at the difficult time when we saw our own brothers fall under enemy fire, where we saw children and women, innocent civilians murdered, when we saw all the destruction caused by the mercenaries. They took more than 1,300 prisoners who are now standing a fair trial in Havana.

Yes, Mr. Kennedy, we also train, we also keep ourselves ready. We will not rehearse landings for we are a peaceful country which will not attack anyone. But we practice defensive methods, the methods we will use to destroy an enemy force that tries to land in our country. Our national hero, Antonio Maceo, said: "He who tries to take over our land will only gather the dust of our earth drenched in the blood of our martyrs." And our militia told him once that they will make this precept true. Mr. Kennedy, when you rehearse war, when you prepare so-called strategic antiguerrilla war, keep this in mind. Keep in mind that we will not attack anyone; but we will defend ourselves to the last man, woman, or child. And keep in mind that Cuba is not alone. Remember that we have many friends, but above all, remember Playa Giron, Mr. Kennedy.

KUCHILAN COMMENT ON 'YANKEE FROGMEN'

Havana CIQ Television Network in Spanish 1320 GMT 7 April 1962--F

(Kuchilan commentary)

(Excerpts) As you know, it has already been reported in the press that seven Yankee frogmen were captured in the northern part of Oriente. The nature of the operation they were carrying out seemed to indicate that they were trying to enter our territory--with what intentions no one knows. This incident is connected with the meeting which, as we told you, was held yesterday in the Panama Canal Zone. This meeting was attended by none other than the U.S. defense secretary himself, and by the secretary of the army, the chief of the Caribbean command, and other high-ranking officers of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Department of State acting through Dean Rusk has asked the Swiss Embassy--which is representing U.S. interests in Cuba--to investigate the case of the frogmen. According to Dean Rusk, these seven frogmen are just innocent treasure hunters. Mr. Rusk's statement shows that the United States is very interested in those seven men whom it sent to our shores to look around while "treasure hunting." How did they get to Cuba? Surely a submarine must have brought them and put them on a raft, or possibly they left the submarine dressed as frogmen and started to swim toward the Cuban coast.